

Amendments to the Claims

1-10. (Cancelled)

11-43. (Cancel)

44. (New) A process for producing spherical polymer particles with a narrow size distribution, i.e. with a CV of less than 35%, and with a diameter in the range between 5 and 100 μm by seed polymerisation from start particles, which comprises performing the polymerisation using start particles which are produced by dispersion polymerisation, wherein the start particles comprise polymer particles having a swelling capacity above 5 times their own volume, and wherein monomers to be polymerised are added and swelled into the start particles directly and polymerised in one step to form the spherical polymer particles.

45. (New) A process according to claim 44, wherein the monomers are added as a monomer mixture.

46. (New) A process according to claim 44, wherein the monomer is a vinyl monomer or a vinyl monomer mixture.

47. (New) A process according to claim 44, wherein the start particles absorb from 5 to 120 times their own volume of monomers.

48. (New) A process according to claim 44, wherein one or more pore forming agents are added to the monomers to form spherical polymer particles having a porous structure with a very low content of pores with diameters less than 50 Å.

49. (New) A process according to claim 45, wherein one or more pore forming agents are added to the monomer mixture to form spherical polymer particles having a porous structure with a very low content of pores with diameters less than 50 Å.

50. (New) A process according to claim 44, wherein a polymerisation initiator is added to the monomers.

51. (New) A process according to claim 45, wherein a polymerisation initiator is added to the monomer mixture.

52. (New) A process according to claim 50, wherein the initiator is added separately before or after the addition of the monomers.

53. (New) A process according to claim 44, wherein the monomers are added as emulsion droplets before they are swelled into the start particles.

54. (New) A process according to claim 45, wherein the monomer mixture is added as emulsion droplets before they are swelled into the start particles.

55. (New) A process according to claim 48, wherein the porous structure is free from micro pores with a diameter below 5 Å.

56. (New) A process according to claim 44, wherein the polymerisation is performed in one step to form spherical polymer particles which have a narrower size distribution than the start particles.